

Morning Sermon Outline / November 6, 2022

“Wonderful Grace of Jesus” John 4:1-42

When I use the word “wonderful” to describe Jesus’ grace, I do not want anyone to misunderstand! Today, we often use the word wonderful simply to describe something that is good. For instance, “that was a wonderful meal.” However, when we describe a meal as wonderful, we probably mean it was tasty, delicious or filling.

But that isn’t WONDERFUL in the Biblical sense!

Wonderful in describing things Biblical goes beyond just “good.” Wonderful in the Biblical sense can be strange, exciting, definitely different and interesting, and in extreme ways! Wonderful in the Biblical sense can even be scary!

When we speak of wonder in a Biblical sense, we speak both of God’s amazing power, and also what may seem to us, strangely wonderful choices, for instance –

²⁶ For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. ²⁷ But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; ²⁸ and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, ²⁹ that no flesh should glory in His presence.

1 Corinthians 1:26–29 (NKJV)

*See, God isn’t like Men in Black, choosing the best of the best of the best!
He often chooses the worst of the worst of the worst! And this He does intentionally!*

I. This grace is seen in Jesus’ wonderful NEED -

⁴ But He needed to go through Samaria. John 4:4 (NKJV)

⁴ And He must needs go through Samaria. John 4:4 (KJV 1900)

⁵ So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. ⁶ Now Jacob’s well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. John 4:5-6

Why did Jesus need to go through Samaria?

- 1. Not because there was no other way! Maybe the straightest, shortest way, Calvin says Jesus was being methodical.*
- 2. Not because He was afraid of / or otherwise avoiding the Pharisees. Many commentators say Jesus was avoiding the Pharisees as His baptizing many made Him a bigger target for their hatred and jealousy. Jesus had no desire to die before His time. Yet, other Scripture shows Jesus able to avoid His enemies in other ways, so I don’t think this was His NEED!*
- 3. Because He was determined to bring His gracious salvation to a Samaritan women & city!*

Everything we have seen in the Book of John to this point, and also in other Scripture, show us Jesus knew everything, and moved according to a definite calling.

¹⁰ for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” Luke 19:10 (NKJV)

It was the NEED of the Samaritan woman, and the men (families) of her town, that were the REASON Jesus NEEDED to go through Samaria!

II. This grace is seen in Jesus' wonderful WEAKNESS –

⁶ Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, **being wearied from His journey**, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. John 4: 6

⁷ A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, **"Give Me a drink."** ⁸ For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. John 4:7-8

Jesus was not only the Son of God, the Eternal Word, but He was also the Word made flesh – John 1:14, and the Son of Man, Jesus was fully Divine, but also fully human – His **"being wearied"** and thirsty are evidence of His very REAL HUMANITY.

¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as we are, yet without sin. Hebrews 4:15 (NKJV)

III. This grace is seen in Jesus' Wonderful OUTREACH -

⁹ Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. John 4:9

²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." John 4:21-24

1. Jesus was called to the lost sheep of Israel –

²² And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." ²³ But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us." ²⁴ But He answered and said, **"I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."** ²⁵ Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" ²⁶ But He answered and said, **"It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."** ²⁷ And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered and said to her, **"O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire."** And her daughter was healed from that very hour. Matthew 15:22–28 (NKJV)

2. But His blessing and salvation flowed beyond Israel as seen in John 4:35-43 & Matthew 15:22-28, even before He died and resurrected –

A. This was prophesied –

⁶ Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.' " Isaiah 49:6 (NKJV)

B. This is our mission too –

⁶ Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ And He said to them, **"It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. ⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."** Acts 1:6–8 (NKJV)

IV. *This grace is seen in Jesus' Wonderful Gift -*

¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to her, **"If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."** ¹¹ The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? ¹² Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?" ¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, **"Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."** ¹⁵ The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."

1. *The wonderful gift here is the Holy Spirit, here identified as Living Water, we can be certain this is what Jesus is talking about because of the explanation given in John 7 –*

³⁷ On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, **"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."** ³⁹ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. John 7:37–39 (NKJV)

2. *Now, John 7 tells us that the Holy Spirit was not yet given and there is a sense those words are very true, and yet John the Baptist had the Holy Spirit from the womb which is a good 30+ years before this time –*

¹⁵ For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. Luke 1:15 (NKJV)

⁴¹ And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Luke 1:41 (NKJV)

I don't have time to fully expound on this today, probably when I get to John 7. For now suffice it to say, the Holy Spirit was given as Provision before Pentecost, as a Possession, after Pentecost, after Jesus was glorified, and by His death made His people a fit temple.

I believe the woman at the well, had the Spirit, in the form of His (the Spirit's bring about her new birth) almost immediately upon hearing Christ's gracious words!

3. *Part of the wonder of this gift is and should be seen in how God's Spirit is given, and to whom:*

A. *In Chapter 3 we had Nicodemus, a teacher of the Jews, a Pharisee, a learned man and a leader, one we might expect to be well on His way with God. Yet, from what Jesus tell us we realize he had to go back to the beginning. His salvation seems a longer, learning process.*

B. *Here this woman is despised, someone Jews would shun, she is ignorant of doctrine and brings it up only to divert from the topic of her own sin, yet she is saved immediately, and is an instant evangelist!*

C. *Additionally, while Nicodemus sought out Christ, at night, this woman is sought by Christ!*

²⁴ And all the trees of the field shall know that I, the LORD, have brought down the high tree and exalted the low tree, dried up the green tree and made the dry tree flourish; I, the LORD, have spoken and have done it." Ezekiel 17:24 (NKJV)

²⁵ At that time Jesus answered and said, **"I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. Matthew 11:25 (NKJV)**

V. *This grace is seen in Jesus' Wonderful Knowledge (of us) and His Gentle Ways -*

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, **"Go, call your husband, and come here."** ¹⁷ The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, **"You have well said, 'I have no husband,' ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly."** ¹⁹ The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. John 4:16-19

²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.

Just as He knew Peter and Nathanael before He even met them in the flesh, here He shows He knows this woman and her sinful past. The woman is seemingly embarrassed by Jesus' knowledge of her sins, and Jesus gently, kindly lets her change the topic, as He knows this change also can be used for her salvation.

VI. This grace is seen in Jesus' Wonderful Office / Calling -

²⁵ The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "**I who speak to you am He.**" John 4:25-26

I have preached this before, and will probably preach it again, "Christ" "Messiah" is not Jesus' last Name!

1. Christ and Messiah are the same thing, both words refer to the Anointed One!
2. Three offices in the OT were "anointed" offices: prophet, priest and king, Jesus as the Messiah / Christ was and is all three of these in one Person!
3. These three offices correspond to what we are and are supposed to be as creatures created in God's image: we were created in God's image in knowledge, righteousness and holiness. The office of prophet corresponds to knowledge, priest to righteousness and king to holiness. As Messiah / Christ Jesus' call and our salvation was and is caught up in our being restored to God's image in these three ways!

VII. This grace is seen in Jesus' Wonderful Commitment -

²⁷ And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?"

²⁸ The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, ²⁹ "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" ³⁰ Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

³¹ In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat."

³² But He said to them, "**I have food to eat of which you do not know.**"

³³ Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him *anything* to eat?"

³⁴ Jesus said to them, "**My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.**" John 4:27-34

1. Jesus had a human body like ours, He was hungry, He was thirsty! Yet, He had other FOOD! *Matthew 4:4*
2. He was devoted to God's will, even unto death –

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross. *Philippians 2:8 (NKJV)*

VIII. This grace is seen in Jesus' Wonderful Call to Us, and Spreading of Salvation -

³⁵ **Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!** ³⁶ **And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.** ³⁷ **For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.'** ³⁸ **I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors."** ³⁹ **And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did."** ⁴⁰ **So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days.** ⁴¹ **And many more believed because of His own word.** ⁴² **Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."** John 4:35-43 (NKJV)

1. There is a harvest - :36-38
2. This HARVEST could very likely be in places we don't expect - :39-43

"Wonderful grace of Jesus, Reaching the most defiled, By its transforming power, Making him God's dear child," Haldon Lineus

Application: 1. Experience God's grace 2. Share God's grace 3. Sing about and enjoy God's grace!